

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 EB-08 L-03 H-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 CG-00
DOTE-00 DLOS-09 EUR-12 PA-02 ICA-20 /096 W
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7619
INFO AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS OTTAWA 02830

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, CA, US
SUBJECT: SUSPENSION OF 1978 FISHING ACCORD

1. WEEKEND CANADIAN TV COVERAGE OF SUSPENSION OF 1978
INTERIM RECIPROCAL FISHING AGREEMENT CONCENTRATED ON
ENFORCEMENT MEASURES WHICH WOULD COME INTO EFFECT ON
JUNE 5, AND ON THE REVELATION THAT U.S. ACTIONS REGARDING
CANADIAN COMMERCIAL FISHING IN U.S. WATERS WOULD APPLY
TO GREAT LAKES AND WOULD COVER SPORT FISHING AS WELL.

2. PRINT MEDIA CONTINUED TO GIVE PROMINENT TREATMENT
TO THE AGREEMENT BREAKDOWN, BUT WITH CANADIAN SLANT.
INTERESTINGLY, NO PRESS EDITORIALS HAVE APPEARED.
AGAIN THE SPORTS FISHING QUESTION LOOMED LARGEST.
OTTAWA CITIZEN HEADLINE OF JUNE 5 READ "WATERS DISPUTE
ESCALATES, SPORT FISHERMEN REELED IN." STORY QUOTES
CANADIAN OFFICIAL STATEMENT THAT "RECIPROCITY IS THE
NAME OF THE GAME," BUT ADDS COMMENT THAT "BOTH SIDES
ARE EXPECTED TO AVOID EXPLOSIVE INCIDENTS." REMAINDER
OF STORY IS FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF NEGOTIATION ISSUES THAT
SET OFF CURRENT DISPUTE.

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3. ACCORDING TO JUNE 5 OTTAWA JOURNAL, CANADIAN SPOKES-
MAN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT REACTIONS ON BOTH SIDES WOULD
RESULT IN "MEXICAN STANDOFF" WITH NO ARRESTS AND ADDED
HOPE THAT "...THE AMERICANS WILL USE MORE DISCRETION.
WE'RE NOT ANXIOUS TO GET INTO A CONFRONTATION. IF THEY
TAKE IT EASY, WE'RE WILLING TO DO LIKEWISE." JOURNAL
CONCLUDES THAT GOC IS "TRYING TO CALM FEARS OF A SO-

CALLED FISH WAR", BUT NOTES THAT CHIEF U.S. NEGOTIATOR LLOYD CUTLER PLANS TO SPEND HIS VACATION FISHING IN CANADA. DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN ASSURED JOURNAL THAT EVEN IF CANADA RETALIATES, "...CUTLER IS SAFE, BECAUSE HE WILL BE IN A CANADIAN BOAT."

4. IN PARLIAMENT FISHERIES MINISTER LEBLANC AND EXTAFF MINISTER JAMIESON ANSWERED NUMBER FOF QUESTIONS DURING JUNE 5 QUESTION PERIOD. LEBLANC REPORTED THAT CANADIAN ENFORCEMENT ACTION RELATES TO COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS ONLY AND THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF RESTRICTING U.S. SPORT FISHERMEN IN CANADIAN WATERS. HE UNDERSTOOD THERE IS NO FLEXIBILITY IN THE U.S. LEGISLATION ON THIS MATTER, BUT GOC IS SEEKING CLARIFICATION. LEBLANC STRESSED CANADIAN WATERS ARE OPEN TO U.S. SPORT FISHERMEN.
DUEMLING

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